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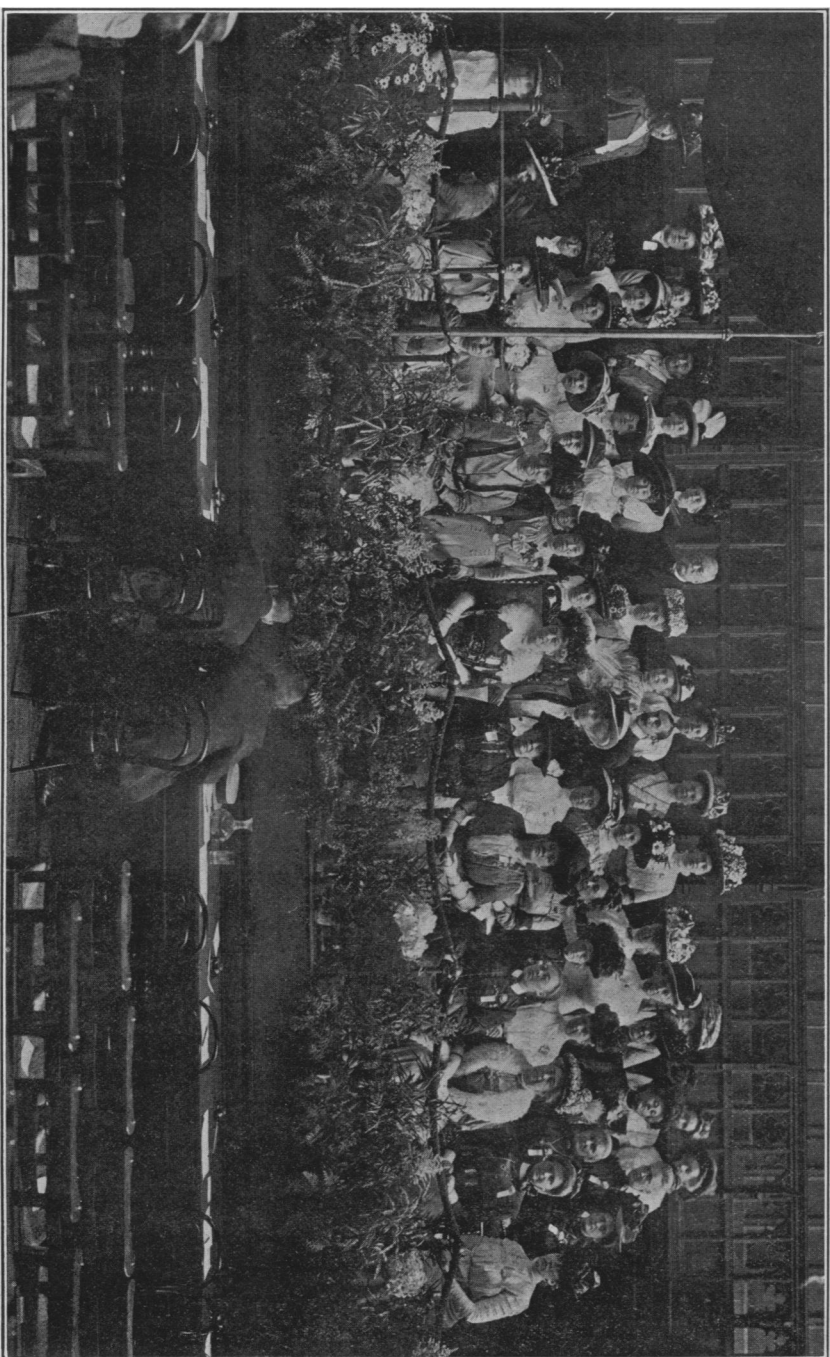
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**THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS—THE HALL.**



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**THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS—THE PLATFORM.**

## THE LONDON MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AND CONGRESS OF NURSES

By LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

Honorary Secretary International Council of Nurses

THE OFFICIAL DAY.—Each assemblage of nurses, of an international character, has been bigger, more deeply enthusiastic, more inspiring than the last. So the meetings of the London Quinquennial have been not only more remarkable than any others for intense interest and for their cosmopolitan character, but also for the powerful energy of impulse felt by all present, which was expressed in ways that will bring far-reaching results.

First, who was there? Seventeen countries were represented by delegates, fraternal delegates, or visitors, and eight or nine languages were heard, though English was spoken throughout on the platform. Official delegates present were: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, president of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, and four delegates from that body who were, Miss Rogers, matron of the Leicester Infirmary, Miss Lamont, superintendent of the Irish branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, Miss Burleigh, superintendent of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, and Miss Burr, secretary of the League of St. John's House Nurses. Miss Goodrich, R.N., president, and Mrs. Robb, Miss Delano, R.N., Miss Maxwell, R.N., and Miss Cadmus, R.N., delegates of the American Federation of Nurses. Sister Agnes Karll, R.N., president, and Sisters Erna Nagel, R.N., recently from the International Hospital, Palermo, Italy; Marthe Franke, R.N., matron of the Children's Seashore Sanatorium, Norderney; Hedwig Schmidts, R.N., assistant matron, City Hospital, Charlottenburg, and Hanna Miller, R.N., superintendent of the City Hospital, Rheydt, sent by the German Nurses' Association. Miss Tilanus, president of the Holland Nurses' Association, and Miss van Lanschot Hubrecht, the secretary of the same, Miss Verbeck, district nurse in the municipal medical service, Amsterdam; Miss van Haeften, the first appointed public school nurse in Holland; and Miss Meyboom, matron of one of the city hospitals, Rotterdam, as delegates from Holland. Baroness Mannerheim, matron of the Surgical Hospital, Helsingfors, and president of the Association of Nurses of Finland, with Miss Koreneff, matron of the Maria Hospital, Helsingfors; Miss Nylander, superintendent of the Preliminary Training School of the

Helsingfors Surgical Hospital; Miss Bergstrom, hospital Sister, and Mrs. Lackstrom, editor of *Epione*, the journal of the Finnish nurses, delegates. Mrs. Tscherning, president of the Danish Council of Nurses, with the four Danish delegates, Miss Hellfach, superintending nurse in the Kommune Hospital, Copenhagen; Mrs. Koch, recently head nurse in the Presbyterian Hospital, New York City, now living in Denmark; Miss Hjorth, Sister in the Royal Frederiks Hospital, Copenhagen, and Miss Andersen, Sister in the Qresunds Hospital, Copenhagen. Miss Snively, president of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses, with the Canadian delegates, Miss Brent, superintendent of the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto; Miss Scott, superintendent of the Training School, Grace Hospital, Toronto; Miss Baikie, president of the Montreal branch, and Miss Tedford, head nurse in the General Hospital, Montreal. Such a delegation has never yet been seen in the history of nursing.

Other members present with votes were seven officers and councillors of the International, and two honorary vice-presidents, namely, Miss Breay, treasurer, and Miss Dock, secretary, and Miss Stewart, matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss Cureton, Miss Knight, matron of the General Hospital, Nottingham; Miss Mollett, matron of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, and Miss Huxley, past president of the Irish Nurses' Association (and niece of the great Huxley), councillors, Dr. Anna Hamilton, France, and Miss Turton, Italy, honorary vice-presidents.

Furthermore came the fraternal delegates, having no votes, but coming to show good-will and interest. From Australia five, Miss Robson, Miss Blomfield, Miss Ragg, Miss Peyton Jones, and Miss Laurence, as well as several visitors from Australia; from Cuba three, Miss Hibbard, whose work is so well known and who is now directing tuberculosis work in Havana, Miss Nuñez, inspector-general of schools for nurses under the Cuban government, and president of the Cuban Nurses' Association, and Miss Monteagudo, superintendent of the Municipal Sanitary Service, Havana. These fraternal delegates were sent by the government Department of Health and Charities. All their expenses were paid, and they brought most kind and cordial letters from the head of the department, Dr. Duque, whose interest in the wider education of his nurses is a gratifying thing and an example to be followed.

Belgium sent prominent fraternal delegates, several of whom came directly from the Belgian government and several from the Federation of Secular Nursing Schools. Miss Cavell, superintendent of the training school in Brussels, read the report, and Dr. Ley, the advanced physician

who came from Paris, was again present, while several nurses completed the party.

France sent a remarkable body of fraternal delegates, representing all the modern progressive groups in that country. Besides Dr. Hamilton, Miss Elston, Dr. Lande, and Mme. Kriegk came from Bordeaux, with Mlle. Siegrist, one of their graduates now in charge of a maternity school, Mlle. Irasque, and Mlle. Bos, assistant and pupil from the Tondu; Mlle. Luigi, the young superintendent of hospital and training school at Béziers and president of the French Society of Training School Superintendents, came also, while the French Minister of War appointed Mlle. Roulet to represent army nurses.

From Paris came Mme. Jacques, the attractive and gracious matron of the new training school in Paris, with a group of her pupils; M. André Mesureur and the new director of the Salpêtrière, representing the governmental department of Hospitals and Charities of Paris; Mlle. Chaptal and Mme. Alphen-Salvador, representing the private nursing schools; and ladies representing the French Red Cross Society.

Fraternal delegates came from Holland representing the conservative party.

Japan, through the kind personal interest of our old friend Miss Suwo, and of Prince Matsukata, president of the Red Cross Society of Japan, sent a most engaging little fraternal delegate in the person of Miss Take Hagiwara, who has served through three wars and received medals from France and Japan. She attended all the sessions most regularly, brought a splendid paper from Japan, and was quite one of the lions.

Sweden sent a very notable group of fraternal delegates, forty in all, headed by Miss Tamm and representing all the important hospitals, training schools, and the nursing journal of that country. They came under the direct auspices of the Dowager Queen of Sweden, who takes an active interest in nursing matters, and who is to receive full accounts of all the movements now under way in the nursing world.

Switzerland also sent a fraternal delegate from the pioneer school La Source.

New Zealand sent Miss Maude and Miss Palmer, while nurses came as visitors from Norway, Ireland, Scotland, and from all the countries already mentioned. Germany sent forty in all, every one registered under the imperial registration Act; Denmark sent forty-three all told; Canada some fifteen or more beside the delegates; American nurses who attended the meetings numbered about twenty-four in addition to the delegates; and the English nurses in attendance cannot well be estimated.

Among the Americans were Miss Packard and Miss Martin, Baltimore; Miss Le Van, Miss Giberson, and Miss Krause, Philadelphia; Miss Ehrlicher and Miss Pindell, Superintendents' Society; Miss Pearson, now in Cuba, while the thoroughly representative character of the American delegation was completed in an unexpected and gratifying manner by the appearance, at the last moment, of the Editor-in-Chief of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, Miss Sophia F. Palmer.

Church House Hall, holding fifteen hundred persons, was filled on Monday; about six hundred tickets were issued to the large receptions, and four hundred and fourteen nurses, mostly foreigners, went to Windsor. This will give an idea of numbers.

A glorious atmosphere of expectant enthusiasm was felt in the beautiful hall of the Church House on Monday, the opening and official day. The organ accompanied the entrance of our hundreds of visitors, and the platform and body of the hall were packed as Mrs. Fenwick arose, in her capacity as honorary president, to open the meeting. She expressed the one regret at the absence of Miss McGahey, the president, and then, in an eloquent address, gave the watchword for the coming period—"Life." The reports from the three federated countries were read, and then Miss Goodrich, on behalf of the American Federation of Nurses, extended to Mrs. Fenwick and Miss Isla Stewart the invitation unanimously given by that body in Minneapolis to accept honorary membership in its midst. They accepted with pleasure, and both invitation and acceptance were accompanied by bouquets of roses. The four councils of Holland, Finland, Denmark, and Canada were then affiliated. This was a beautiful and impressive ceremony. As each incoming president in turn read her report she was greeted by a speech of welcome and a beautiful bouquet, and the national anthem of her country was played on the organ. All present rose to each anthem, while many voices took up the strains of beloved patriotic airs. Enthusiasm was intense as these splendid leaders of nursing progress responded individually to the welcome given them.

Officers for the next period were then elected: Sister Agnes Karll as the next president, while Miss Breay and Miss Dock were re-elected. Sister Agnes's first words were a greeting to Miss Nightingale, the revered woman and pioneer.

The amendments to the constitution were quickly despatched. The number of delegates is to remain as now, four from each country, but the fees were reduced. The time between regular meetings was altered from five to three years. The next meeting will take place in 1912, and in Cologne, as Sister Agnes believes that it will help German progress.

The purpose of the International is first of all to be helpful and to go where it can give aid and stimulus.

The resolutions next came up. The first, on registration, was passed unanimously. It was put by Mrs. Robb and seconded by Mrs. Kock. A dramatic incident then occurred. Up rose Mr. Sydney Holland, time-worn enemy of registration and upholder of the system of sending undergraduates to private duty. Asking when he could be heard in opposition, he stated that the meeting was not representative. Some nurses hissed, and Miss Dock asked why he then thought it worth while to come before it with his views. Excitement was quelled by the chair who declared that full opportunity for discussion would be given next day. The enemy, followed by a henchman, then retreated in good order. The second resolution, on the rights of citizenship, was then put by Miss Hubrecht, and seconded by the Baroness Mannerheim, who told of what the women of Finland were doing with the ballot. Mrs. Millicent G. Fawcett, one of England's women prominent in higher education, had brought greetings and spoken on citizenship before the resolution was put. No dissent was expressed. Forty-two voting members being present, it was carried by a vote of thirty-eight in the affirmative. Two members voted in the negative, two refrained from voting, and two were absent. Reports were then read from countries not affiliated. Enthusiasm arose afresh for the foreign fraternal delegates on the platform, and all the reports were of great interest.

The meeting came to an end with profound emotions of joy and uplift, and all adjourned to the Gaiety Restaurant where several hundred were entertained at luncheon, amidst flowers, music, and jollity, by Mrs. Fenwick and a group of the English nurses. In all its fulness of serious interest, picturesque ceremonial, and unity of feeling this was a day the like of which we have never had.

THE CONGRESS.—The remaining four days were given to open congress meetings, of most varied interest, excellent papers, and thronged attendance. The first session in Caxton Hall was devoted to Education and Registration. Dr. Beard's paper, presented at Minneapolis, had a place here and is regarded as most important and valuable by the English leaders. Another dramatic scene occurred when Mr. Sydney Holland reappeared, armed with a very long, dull, and unconvincing brief against registration. Before beginning it he offered gross personal discourtesies to our English hostesses by launching into belittling remarks as to the relative sizes of their training schools and hospitals, and was called to order to speak to the subject under discussion. Again he descended to personalities, and meanly libelled an English nurse



present, who promptly came to the platform and exposed his "inaccuracies." Great sensation reigned. Cries of "shame," "out of order," "unfair," were heard, and it was with difficulty the chairman could secure him a hearing. After all he never came to any point, over-ran his time, and had to be closed off by the bell. As an opponent he showed himself not an honorable enemy, but a mean one, and he carried with him from the hall the general contempt of those present who understood the question. It was a perfect demonstration of what the progressive party in England have had to battle against during the past twenty years.

Deeply interesting sessions were held on "Private Duty," "School Nursing," and "The Nurse as Citizen." In the latter many of the new preventive lines of work were brought out. "The Relations of Nursing and Medicine" and the "Care of the Insane" elicited much interest. Dr. Russell's paper, given at Minneapolis, was read again here. The "Nurse as Patriot" gave the army nursing service a hearing. The session on "Morality and Health" was a terribly earnest one, and "Mission Nursing" closed the most successful and inspiring congress that we have ever held.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.—The extent and beauty of the social entertainments, the unbounded hospitality shown us, and the perfect arrangements and foresight of the British nurses are quite indescribable. Only those few individuals who came late or unannounced had the smallest uncertainty. Weeks ago all the tickets and invitation cards, six or eight each, were addressed to every foreign visitor who was known to be coming. The reception given by Miss Isla Stewart in the Great Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was perhaps the most unique and never-to-be-forgotten evening. Another remarkable one was the banquet, where Lord Ampthill, champion of registration and typical example of the chivalrous English gentleman, presided. The receptions given by Mrs. Whitelaw Reid at Dorchester House and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at the Mansion House were both beautiful. The "conversazione" at the charming Doré gallery and the "At Home" of the *British Journal of Nursing* in Caxton Hall, the tea at the Irish Village at the Exhibition at Shepherd's Bush, with Irish songs and dances, potato cakes, scones, strawberries, and tea; the reception at St. John's House, the Nurses' Lodge, and, finally, the visit to Windsor, made a week of varied, brilliant, and lovely impressions. The king himself took a special interest in the visit to Windsor, permitting us to see galleries and gardens not shown to tourists, and allowing the loyal Canadians to lay a wreath on the tomb of Queen Victoria.

WORK OUTLINED BY THE CONGRESS.—As outcome of the papers and discussions two important lines of work are to be undertaken. One, at the suggestion of Mrs. Robb, will be a standing international committee on education to confer and work toward agreement of the basic requirements in the training of nurses. The other, the appointment of a national committee in each country to work up the propaganda against venereal disease. The congress also passed a resolution recommending courses of instruction for warders and wardresses in prisons.

REPORTS OF THE CONGRESS.—The reports given weekly by the *British Journal of Nursing* have been very remarkable, and the fulness, detail, and variety as well as accuracy of this journal's account of the whole meeting constitute a wonderful journalistic feat. The *International* will publish an official report, cost 25 cents (one shilling), but this will not contain the four days' congress papers. These will appear from time to time in the British and American journals. The report may be ordered, prepaid, from 2131 Oxford Street, London, W.

The various groups of nurses who had planned and arranged the exhibits deserve the highest praise for the remarkably interesting displays made and for the celerity with which they were all put into place. The district nursing exhibit filled a whole room and was remarkably well done. Every possible sort of device, contrivance, and invention that the ingenuity of nurse or patient could devise was there, and it seems a pity that this most instructive exhibit could not be made a permanent or a travelling one, for nothing quite like it has ever been seen before. The organizers of this section were Lady Hermione Blackwood, Queen's nurse, Miss du Sautoy, a county superintendent of the Queen's nurses, and Miss Eden, who gave great thought and ability to their task. The district nursing exhibit received and well merited the first prize.

St. John's House exhibit, illustrating maternity work and the collection organized by the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, demonstrating the care of the eye, ear, nose, and throat were admirably done, as also the Irish exhibit, containing many excellent inventions. The school nurses' exhibit, the London Missionary School of Medicine exhibit, the mortuary exhibit arranged by Miss Greenstreet, and the St. Bartholomew's League exhibit containing much of historical interest were all noteworthy. From abroad came many excellent exhibits, the German Nurses' Association sending a remarkable collection of over fifty dolls in various uniforms. There were also beautiful collections of badges, etc. Our space does not permit us sufficient detail, and we refer our readers to the issues of July 17 and July 24 of the *British Journal of Nursing*.